

VIRGINIA CODE COMMISSION

Thursday, January 21, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.

General Assembly Building, 2nd Floor
House Redistricting Room
Richmond, Virginia 23219

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Steven Landes, Chairman; John S. Edwards; Ryan McDougale; Jane M. Roush; James F. Almand; Robert L. Calhoun; Thomas M. Moncure, Jr.; William R. Janis, Frank S. Ferguson; E.M. Miller, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Anders Ganten, Senior Director Government Content Acquisition at LexisNexis

STAFF PRESENT: Jane Chaffin

Senator Edwards called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Delegate Landes arrived during roll call and assumed the chair.

The Commission met to discuss proposed changes to the Code of Virginia published by LexisNexis. Anders Ganten, Senior Director of Government Content Acquisition at LexisNexis, advised members that LexisNexis is building a new system for publishing all of its state codes. One of the goals is to provide consistency between the various state codes and to make sure the format and appearance are current and relevant.

The proposed new LexisNexis print output style would alter the current Virginia Code as follows:

	Current	Proposed
Type Page Size	30 x 51 picas	30 x 50 picas
Hierarchy Headings (Title, Subtitle, Part, etc.)	10-point regular, initial caps and lower case.	12-point bold, regular, upper case.
Hierarchy Analyses	Hierarchy analyses contain all subunits	Hierarchy only contains its immediate subunits, unless the sub-subunit is the section level, in which case it will also be included
Chapter Analyses Under Title Headings	10-point font	8-point font (changed back to 10-point font after 12/09 meeting)
Section Headings	Run into statute text	Set out on a separate line
Analyses	Double column	All analyses will be wide measure (made article heading bold after 12/09 meeting)
Analyses Headings	Chap.; Sec.	Chapter; Section
Note Headings	Run into note text	Set out on a separate line
History Citation	Set out at the end of the last line of the section	Set out in a separate note

LexisNexis proposes to implement the changes this year in the July 2010 supplements and replacement volumes. The new format will be phased in as volumes are replaced. As inventory

1 sells out, a determination will be made at that time whether to implement the new formatting
2 changes in the reprinted volumes.

3 The primary concern expressed by the Code Commission is that the proposed formatting
4 changes, including added spacing and, in some cases, increased font sizes, will likely result in
5 an increase in the page count of each volume. Although he could not give a definitive number,
6 Mr. Ganten estimated that the size of the code will increase by approximately 8-10%.

7 Mr. Ganten explained that LexisNexis performed market research on the issue. The research
8 showed that law students do not generally use the code in book form, but later in their careers
9 discover the utility of the actual book. The proposed appearance and formatting changes cater
10 to a generation that is used to reading material online--the Google generation. The changes are
11 intended to make the book easier to browse and navigate.

12 Mr. Ferguson made a motion to accept the proposal and to authorize LexisNexis to move
13 forward with implementing the changes in 2010. Senator Edwards seconded the motion. The
14 motion was approved with Mr. Miller voting against the motion.

15 Mr. Ferguson mentioned that House Bill 589, introduced at the recommendation of the Code
16 Commission, would provide a mechanism to allow him to continue to serve on the Commission.
17 He has served on the Commission for 16 years. If the bill does not pass, this meeting will be his
18 last. If the bill does pass, Mr. Ferguson stated that he hopes to be appointed so that he can
19 continue his service.

20 The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.